

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



July 13, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(DMW)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/ William A. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Approval for MSFC Employees with Senior Institutional or Project Responsibilities to Attend a Salute to the U.S. Army Gala

In accordance with 5 CFR. § 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), I make the following determination:

Certain MSFC employees with senior institutional or project responsibilities have been invited to attend "a Salute to the U.S. Army Gala." This event will be co-sponsored by the City of Huntsville, the Madison County Commission, the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and the Association of the United States Army and will be held at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama on July 17, 2007.

The Gala will begin with a private VIP reception at 5:00pm in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center, transition to an open reception at 5:30pm in the East/West Hall of the Von Braun Center, and end with a dinner event starting at 7:00pm in the North Hall of the Von Braun Center. The Gala is intended as a show of appreciation for the United States Armed Forces and will be combined with ongoing activities for the Annual Armed Forces Week celebration.

This event will be a widely-attended gathering of industry representatives, federal, state, county, and city officials and other community leaders. There will not be a fee for attendance at the Gala; but estimation for attendance is valued at \$125.00 per person. Approximately 600 individuals have been invited to attend. I find that the Gala meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(2).

MSFC personnel invited to attend this event presently, or may in the near future, have extensive involvement in matters relating to the sponsors of this event.¹ These personnel are similarly situated in that they each have senior institutional or project responsibilities

¹ These personnel include: Center Director; Deputy Center Director; Associate Director; Chief Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel; Director, Office of Procurement; Director, Office of Center Operations; Director, Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications; Director, Office of Human Capital; Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer; Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer; Director, Safety & Mission Assurance Directorate; Director, Engineering Directorate; Manager, Shuttle Propulsion Office; Manager, Exploration Launch Office; Director, Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity; Manager, Science & Mission Systems Office.

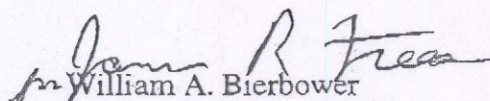
that could impact the local community and the interests of the sponsors in local economic development.

I have determined that free attendance of these senior institutional and project leaders at the Gala is in the interest of the agency because it will provide a unique opportunity for the invited MSFC employees to raise NASA's profile with local business and governmental leaders, will contribute to community relations, and will show support for NASA's sister agency on Redstone Arsenal.

Given the purpose of the event, NASA's interest in it, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of the event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having these senior institutional and project leaders attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

Accordingly, NASA employees in the positions identified above may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

Questions about this determination may be addressed to Devinti M. Williams at 256-544-0012.


William A. Bierbower
Chief Counsel